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9 September 1950

MEMORANDUM TO: Chief of Staff

SUBJECT : Chinese Communist Participation in Korean War

1. Reference is made to the Chief of Staff's request for evaluation of paragraphs 1 D and 2 of attached radio from FEC Survey Group Formosa, AG 38701, 8 Sep 50 (Tab 1).

2. Anything from Chinese Formosan sources must be taken with a grain of salt. Korean troops of Gen LIN Piao's Fourth Field Army have been transferred from South China to Manchuria during the early part of this year, as reported in Intell Summary 2897. The majority of the estimated 140,000 Koreans in the Korean Volunteer Army, which was disbanded during 1947, were integrated into LIN Piao's forces, and many of them remained with the Fourth Field Army during the entire southward movement. Approximately 25,000 Japanese troops were variously reported with LIN's forces in South China, serving in artillery and other units requiring technical skill. It is probable that the numerous reports of large-scale movements of Chinese Communist forces northward from Canton during the spring and early summer of this year were actually Koreans, Manchurian-Koreans, and ex-Japanese troops being transferred to Manchuria and Korea. The presence of large numbers of Chinese Communist-trained Koreans in combat areas has been confirmed through PW interrogation. Eight per cent of the first 700 PW's interrogated had formerly served with the Chinese Communist Army. Although, to date, no Japanese have been taken prisoner, a ROK sergeant fighting in Yongdok reported that he had observed Japanese in the NK Army and had heard troops speaking Japanese. (Many Koreans do speak Japanese.) No information has been received regarding the organization of 12 square divisions. The NK Army is at present organized into triangular divisions.

3. The present strength of Chinese Communist regular forces in Manchuria is estimated at 246,000. About 165,000 of those troops are reported deployed along the Manchurian-Korean border. Rather than enter the war as an active participant, it is probable that the Chinese Communists, if called upon to do so, would furnish replacements through discreet integration into Korean units.

1 Incl:
Radio, AG 38701

C. A. W.

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